

Arafat to visit Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will visit Amman shortly for talks with King Hussein. Palestinian sources said Wednesday. The sources could not give an exact date for the visit but said it would take place before the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, meets in Algiers on Feb. 14. Mr. Arafat, who is now in Aden for a meeting of PLO leaders, has had several rounds of talks with King Hussein over the past four months on future ties between Jordan and a potential Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordan Times

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PLO rockets fall near Israeli village

NICOSIA (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday claimed responsibility for an artillery attack on a village in northern Israel Tuesday. The PLO News Agency WAFA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a Palestinian military spokesman as saying that "Palestinian fighters inside the occupied territories shelled enemy positions near the settlement of Zarit in northern Palestine with heavy artillery." The Israeli army said Tuesday two katusha rockets had fallen near Zarit, 1.5 kilometres into Israel from Lebanon, but caused neither damage nor casualties.

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2 Gulf ministers hint of oil price cuts

ABU DHABI (R) — Two Gulf oil ministers Wednesday hinted the region's exporters might soon cut their prices to meet the crisis that has followed the breakdown of OPEC's talks in Geneva this week. United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba said his country faced huge financial problems because of falling oil revenue and had to increase its production. "I have warned that we may resort to the last medicine... This is what I see in front of my eyes," he told Abu Dhabi Radio and Television, according to an advance text obtained by Reuters. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah told reporters in Kuwait: "We will abide by OPEC prices if other states stop giving discounts on their oil prices."

3 Arabs on trial for shooting Israeli ambassador

LONDON (R) — Three Arabs went on trial Wednesday accused of attempting to murder Israeli ambassador Shlomo Argov outside London's Dorchester Hotel last June. The June 3 shooting was followed by Israeli air strikes against Palestinian targets in Beirut and — three days later — by Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The prosecution said Hassein Said, 23, Marwan Al Banna, 20, and Nauoff Rosan, 36, were members of the Palestine Liberation Movement, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) splinter group, who chose Mr. Argov as the target of an attack. Prosecutor Roy Amotz said it was Mr. Said who shot Mr. Argov as he stepped into his car after a dinner party at the hotel. The bullet passed right through Mr. Argov's skull causing severe brain damage. Mr. Amotz said, adding there was no prospect of the ambassador returning from Israel to give evidence.

Soviet emigration to West declines

MOSCOW (R) — Emigration of Germans and Armenians from the Soviet Union fell sharply last year, and figures for January showed no change in the trend. Western consular officials said Wednesday. They said the monthly rate of visa approvals for all two groups, which make up the majority of Soviet emigres, had consistently declined since early last year. The number of ethnic Germans allowed to leave for West Germany slumped from more than 3,500 to 1,958.

Thousands of Ethiopians escape from drought

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The inhabitants of the drought-stricken Wollo region north of Addis Ababa, are abandoning their homes and property and flocking to the town of Koreb at the rate of 150 a day to seek relief aid. The Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) said Wednesday. According to the agency, a total of 7,120 adults and 5,540 children seeking relief aid have arrived in Koreb over the last two months.

Zurich police crack down on drugs

ZURICH (R) — Police cracking down on Zurich's growing drug trade, which has claimed eight lives already this year, have warned addicts that a very pure brand of heroin which increases the danger of lethal overdoses is in circulation. In a raid on a favourite meeting point for young people on the banks of the river Limmat Tuesday, they arrested 12 people for drug offences and questioned 52 more. The meeting-point has become a popular haunt since a youth centre, the focal point of sporadic riots in 1980 and 1981, was bulldozed by city authorities last year. Police narcotics experts said the very pure heroin on sale was particularly dangerous for addicts used to injecting weaker doses of the drug.

Arafat: Palestinian unity is very strong

By Ahmed Salameh
in Aden and Agencies

ADEN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said here Wednesday that Palestinian national unity under the leadership of the PLO is now stronger than at any other time in the past.

Addressing a rally here to mark the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, Mr. Arafat said: "Those who are trying to spread rumours about the PLO accepting capitulatory resolutions are themselves the enemies of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Arafat was expected to hold crucial talks on Wednesday with other Palestinian leaders to seek backing for his cautious welcome to an American Middle East peace plan.

Palestinian sources said the talks brought together members of the PLO Executive Committee and representatives of PLO commando groups. But it was not clear whether they were attended by the secretaries-general of all eight PLO commando groups.

It was reported here that three radical PLO leaders were conspicuously absent from celebrations Tuesday night to mark the anniversary. Their absence reflected differences between Mr. Arafat and his Syrian-backed critics, which could endanger hopes of agreement being reached in Aden, Reuters quoted Middle East analysts as saying. "The Zionist danger does not threaten the Palestinian people alone but the whole Arab Nation," Mr. Arafat said.

"We demand peace from a position of strength, because we are

not weak nor are we yielding to the enemy. The Palestinian people's struggle will be escalated despite their departure from Lebanon," the PLO leader said.

The declaration rejected any Middle East peace plan that did not recognise the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a Palestinian homeland.

Mr. Arafat has welcomed parts of President Reagan's peace initiative of last September, which envisages Palestinian home rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. This strained Mr. Arafat's relations with Syria and the Syrian-backed Palestinian groups.

Mr. Arafat said after talks with Jordanian leaders in Amman last month that the PLO and Jordan were agreed on "distinctive and special ties."

Fatah holds meeting

The Palestinian News Agency WAFA, monitored in Nicosia, meanwhile said the central committee of the PLO's largest faction Fatah, which is chaired by Mr. Arafat, held a separate meeting Wednesday morning.

Topics discussed included current deployment of PLO forces, relations with Arab states and Jewish democratic movements and future military and political prospects in the occupied territories, the agency added.

Also addressing Wednesday's rally was South Yemen's President Ali Nasser Mohammad who pledged his country's resources and potential for serving the Palestinian cause. He also appealed for stronger Palestinian unity in this critical stage the Arab Nation is passing through.

Israel seeks joint military patrols

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is seeking the right to conduct joint military patrols with the Lebanese army on Lebanon's territory after an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said Wednesday.

In the first official confirmation of unsourced press reports on such joint patrols, the official told Reuters they were part of special security arrangements which Israel is demanding in South Lebanon as a condition for withdrawing its troops.

Israel also wants to set up three early warning stations, each manned by a company of about 120 soldiers, inside Lebanon. This demand has been rejected by Lebanon and the U.S. as an infringement of Lebanese sovereignty.

The official did not say where the joint patrols might operate or how long they might stay after an Israeli withdrawal.

He also said Israel has proposed a special role for the Lebanese right-wing Christian militia, led by Maj. Saad Haddad, which it has armed and financed for several

years.

"We have suggested that it be integrated into the Lebanon army and that he be appointed military commander in South Lebanon," the official said.

"This is a proposal and not a demand, but it should be made very clear that Israel will not abandon Maj. Haddad and leave him in the lurch," he added.

The official confirmed press reports that a scheduled visit by Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Washington next month has been postponed indefinitely by the Americans.

"In his last letter to Mr. Begin, President Reagan said the visit should still take place when it was convenient but he mentioned no specific date. I think it is certain it will not be in February so we are waiting for the U.S. to suggest another date," he said.

Relations between the U.S. and Israel have been increasingly strained over what the Americans see as Israel's unrealistic conditions for withdrawing its forces from Lebanon.

U.S.-Soviet delegates discuss nuclear missiles today

GENEVA (R) — United States and Soviet arms negotiators resume talks on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe here Thursday amid growing Western emphasis on flexibility at the bargaining table.

Paul Nitze, chief U.S. delegate to the talks, said Tuesday he was determined to probe the Soviet position for any opening which could lead to an agreement on nuclear arms in Europe.

Arriving from consultations with NATO in Brussels, he said President Reagan had instructed him to stick to the so-called "zero option," but added Washington was "certainly not locked into" this strategy.

Under the zero option, the U.S. would drop plans to start basing 572 Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe from December if the Soviet Union agreed to dismantle about 600 SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles.

The plan, under fire in several West European countries, has become a key issue in campaigning for a March 6 general election in West Germany, where

all of the planned 108 Pershing-2 and a total of 96 Cruise missiles, are to be based.

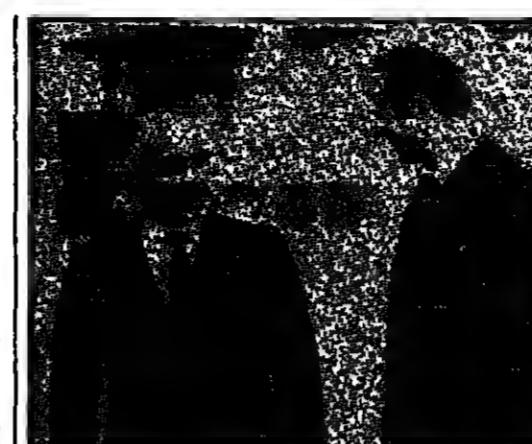
Chancellor Helmut Kohl supports the U.S. plan, but the head of his conservative coalition partners, Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, criticised it at the weekend as nonsensical and unacceptable.

The opposition Social Democrats favour a half-way solution which would allow some U.S. missile deployment in return for fewer Soviet missiles aimed at Western Europe.

While Washington has emphasised its determination to seek an accord, Western diplomats said it would probably not be able to move towards a compromise until after the West German elections.

They said the inherently slow pace of such top-secret talks could mean any eventual agreement might not come until later this year, close to the December deployment date.

Soviet chief negotiator Yuri Kvitinsky alluded to this in his arrival statement Tuesday. "The time is approaching when a choice



His Majesty King Hussein is received by King Baudouin of Belgium upon arrival at Brussels (A.P. wirephoto)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor joined by Queen Sofia and Premier Felipe Gonzalez review the guard of honour at Madrid Airport (A.P. wirephoto)

Hussein, Noor arrive in Belgium

BRUSSELS (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived here Wednesday to start a three-day official visit to Belgium.

The King will meet with King Baudouin, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans for talks on Middle East issues and bilateral relations.

They were met upon arrival in the Belgian capital by King Baudouin, Queen Fabiola and senior government officials.

European Economic Community and the European Parliament with whom he will discuss current initiatives for establishing peace in the Middle East region.

The King and Queen arrived in Brussels from Madrid after a 24-hour visit to Spain.

They were met upon arrival in Madrid on Tuesday evening

before going to Brussels, King Hussein held a meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales. They reviewed the Middle East situation and relations between Jordan and Spain.

The King and Queen arrived in Madrid on Tuesday evening

accompanied by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi and the President of the National Planning Council Hanna Odeh.

Badran briefs Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — Leaders of the four Arab states in the Gulf region which His Majesty King Hussein visited in the past week have voiced support for the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and their joint endeavours to resolve the Palestine problem. Prime Minister Mudar Badran said here Wednesday.

Mr. Badran who has speaking at a regular cabinet meeting said that King Hussein's assessment of the political situation in the region was identical to those of the Arab leaders he visited.

The prime minister briefed the cabinet on the outcome of King Hussein's tour which included Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.



Jordan appoints new ambassador to U.N.

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's former Ambassador to Switzerland Abdullah Salam has been appointed Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Mr. Salam will succeed Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh who has been ambassador to Switzerland and who is expected to retire from public service soon.

Mr. Salam told the Jordan Times Wednesday that he will leave for New York to take up his new post early February.

Mubarak, Cheysson discuss aid to Iraq

PARIS (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had talks with French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson here Wednesday which informed sources said had been expected to cover moves to aid Iraq in its war with Israel.

The meeting took place at Paris' Orly Airport, where Mr. Mubarak stopped briefly on his way to a visit to Washington for talks with President Reagan here Thursday.

The sources said France, which is providing Iraq with military equipment worth \$4 billion over the past two years, was seeking to coordinate further aid through Egypt.

The U.S. has protested to Israel about recent incidents in which Israeli soldiers tried to pass checkpoints manned by American Marines on the edge of Beirut.

State radio said the Lebanese cabinet would meet Wednesday night to evaluate the progress of the troop withdrawal negotiations.

The U.S. has protested to Israel about recent incidents in which Israeli soldiers tried to pass checkpoints manned by American Marines on the edge of Beirut.

Both Egyptian and American relations with Israel are severely strained, with the continuing presence of Israeli troops in Lebanon more than seven months after the invasion began.

Mr. Mubarak, making his second visit to Washington in less than a year, has made clear that he is looking to the United States for a solution.

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JORDAN NEWS

Third highlands reclamation project to start next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan plans to start implementing its third programme for developing highlands early next month, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Dudin announced here Wednesday.

According to a circular, which the minister sent to agricultural departments in various government agencies, farmers wishing to benefit from the project can submit applications provided they have at least four dunums of land to be planted with trees.

The circular also stipulates that no more than 50 dunums owned by one individual farmer can be involved in the project, the land

must receive an average of 250 millimetres of rainfall annually and that the owner should start cultivating the land soon after it had been reclaimed.

The new project is expected to reclaim an area of 7,500 hectares of land for planting olive trees, and an area of about 5,200 hectares for planting forest and fodder trees.

The Ministry of Agriculture will offer the farmers saplings of fruit-bearing trees at low cost, barbed wire to fence off their land and guidance on the work.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani (third from right), Jad'an (to Mr. Momani's left), Wednesday discuss cooperation between the two countries in housing affairs (Petra photo)



South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Ro-Myun Gong (left) Wednesday meets Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim (Petra photo)

S. Korea supports Jordan's policy'

AMMAN (Petra) — South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Ro-Myun Gong, at a meeting with Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim Wednesday, voiced his country's support for Jordan's Middle East policy.

Mr. Gong, who arrived here earlier in the day to start a three-day visit to Jordan also reviewed

with Mr. Ibrahim the Middle East situation and Jordanian-South Korean relations.

Also at the meeting, Mr. Gong explained his country's position vis-a-vis the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Ibrahim explained Jordan's stand in relation to the Middle

Flying eye hospital to land in Amman Sunday

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Project ORBIS, a flying ophthalmological hospital will land in Amman Sunday for an exchange of views with Jordanian doctors on the latest techniques of treating ailments of the eyes. After Nelson, the vice-president operations for ORBIS said Wednesday.

Mr. Nelson, who arrived in Amman last week to make the necessary arrangements with the Ministry of Health, which is hosting ORBIS, and local physicians, explained that "Project ORBIS is basically a DC-8 jet-airliner converted into an eye hospital which contains a classroom and a fully-equipped ophthalmological operation suite and treatment facilities."

An audio-visual control centre allows doctors to observe and take

part in operations, he added. ORBIS, however, is not an open clinic to treat the public, as operations are chosen by local physicians, while the guest surgeons are selected by the host country," Mr. Nelson said.

The U.S.-based flying eye hospital will perform four operations during its two-week stay in Jordan, Mr. Nelson said.

He added that two of the hospital's surgeons are from the U.S., two from the West Germany and one from France.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that a five-member committee of distinguished Jordanian physicians has been set up to coordinate and cooperate with the guest surgeons and ORBIS staff. There are also three young non-operating doctors on board who are permanently assigned to the programme. Their job is to coordinate the work with the local physicians, Mr. Nelson said.

ORBIS staff will hold a press conference at the airport Monday when reporters will be shown around the flying eye-hospital.

Ibrahim receives Bangladeshi ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly appointed non-resident Bangladeshi ambassador to Jordan Wednesday presented copies of his credentials to Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim.

Tuesday, Mr. Ibrahim received copies of the credentials of the ambassadors of Guinea, Thailand and Malaysia.



Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim (right) Wednesday confers with the non-resident Bangladeshi ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

N. Yemen extends invitation to Badran

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemen's Minister of Municipal and Housing Affairs Mohammad Jad'an said in Amman Wednesday that he had conveyed an invitation to Prime Minister Mudar Badran to visit North Yemen from the North Yemeni premier.

Speaking before his departure home after his five-day visit to Jordan, Mr. Jad'an said that his country is deeply interested in promoting ties with Jordan and

looks forward to developing mutual cooperation in all fields. During the visit Mr. Jad'an met a number of Jordanian officials and toured a number of development projects and housing schemes.

Earlier, Mr. Jad'an said he had reached agreement with Jordanian officials on exchange of visits of officials and technicians from both countries. This he felt sure would lead to crosspollination of expertise that would open the

door to future bilateral cooperation in housing and municipal affairs, he said. He also praised the achievements of Jordan in housing and town planning, which he said North Yemen would benefit from.

The North Yemeni minister was seen off at the airport by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hassan Al Momani, Housing Corporation Director Hamdullah Al Nahhas and senior officials.

Greek trade team due end January

AMMAN (Petra) — A Greek economic delegation is due here Jan. 30 to take part in the joint Graeco-Jordanian committee meeting an economic affairs.

The delegation's discussions with Jordanian officials, which are due to start on the following day, will cover ways by which the two countries can boost their bilateral relations in both the trade and economic fields.

Bar Association elections to be held in March

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"We have been able to cure many eye diseases in these countries, while demonstrating the latest surgical techniques to local physicians," Mr. Nelson said.

"We in turn have benefited from the experiences of the local physicians," he added.

ORBIS does not charge a fee for these operations, and is in fact a non-profit making corporation. "We are financed by donations and material gifts from donors all over the world," he said. "All we ask for is a free landing."

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FEATURES

Shunting refugees: Major headache for W. Europe

By Tom Hebehan
Reuter

GENEVA — "Orbit cases" — refugees shunted from one airport to another by countries unwilling to give them asylum — are rapidly becoming a major headache for West European governments, according to refugee aid workers here.

Sometimes individually, sometimes in groups of several dozen, they shuttle between airports as far-flung as Rome and Stockholm or Madrid and Bucharest, camping out in transit lounges, before being flown to their next destination.

Until about a year ago, most orbit cases, as the refugees are known here, were quietly given asylum after a few days' wait in a transit lounge. They were most Iranians, followed by Iraqi Kurds and Afghans.

But the continuing recession and growing unemployment across Europe have prompted even traditionally open-minded countries to quietly close the door on the asylum seekers, refugee

officials told Reuters.

Spain, a gathering point for Iranians turned away elsewhere in Europe, became the latest country to limit entry last week by making visas compulsory for all Iranians.

"It's a very sensitive topic, especially since countries which consider themselves among the most democratic in Europe, like the Scandinavians, are tightening up like everybody else," said one aid official who requested anonymity.

"Orbit cases are probably the biggest refugee problem in Europe now," said another refugee specialist, who also asked not to be named so his organisation's efforts to help them would not be prejudiced.

Since embarrassed governments do not want public attention focused on these refugees, no statistics exist to illustrate the magnitude of the problem or how much European governments and airlines are paying to support and transport the refugees.

As for the refugees themselves, most are educated Iranians,

Afghans and Iraqi Kurds who have the money for a plane ticket and relatives already living in Europe.

A spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said his organisation now received reports of orbit cases almost every day. A growing number of cases has also been brought to the attention of smaller Geneva-based groups helping refugees or religious bodies like the World Council of Churches here.

In one of the most recent cases, 26 Iraqi Kurds were temporarily allowed to enter Italy after what was to be a flight from Tehran to Stockholm turned into a two-week ordeal played out in Rome, Belgrade, Prague and Bucharest.

The Kurds, who said they fled Iraq because of ethnic persecution there, wanted to join relatives in Sweden but had no visas to enter the country. After landing in Rome on Dec. 26, they were sent to Belgrade where they needed no entry visas.

But Yugoslav authorities refused to allow them to enter and

returned them to Rome, after which 19 with Romanian visas left for Bucharest and four with Czechoslovak visas for Prague.

Bucharest turned away all 19 while Prague sent two back to Rome saying their passports were forged.

At one point, refugee workers said, Italy considered sending the Kurds back to Iraq, but the government bowed to loud protests that they would face persecution.

Last November, Spain turned away 66 Iranians, sending them back to their last transit stop — Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Vienna — where they eventually found asylum.

They were turned away even though they needed no entry visas, because Spanish officials said they feared reports that 6,000 Iranians were allegedly booked on flights from Pakistan to join family members already living in Germany.

While the number of Afghan refugees has now dwindled, the flow of Iranians and Iraqi Kurds to Western Europe appears to have increased in the past six months, refugee workers said.

"It won't be long before they close the door too," one commented, adding that European governments would then probably have to start some coordination programme to deal with the continuing number of refugees landing in their airports.

While there have always been individual asylum-seekers landing without visas in countries in they would like to settle, the problem increased greatly after the Iranian revolution and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, both in 1979.

The flow of refugees to Frankfurt — an airport known to be lenient to orbit cases — swelled so much that Bonn introduced compulsory visas for Iranians and Afghans in March 1980. Afghan orbit cases continued, so Bonn decided in Oct. 1981 to demand transit visas even for Afghans only changing planes in Germany.

While the number of Afghan refugees has now dwindled, the flow of Iranians and Iraqi Kurds to Western Europe appears to have increased in the past six months, refugee workers said.

Indian elephants face extinction

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

NEW DELHI — The Indian elephant, revered by Hindus, is facing a battle for survival because its forest home is being destroyed to make way for settlements and industrial projects, according to conservationists.

Conservation officials said they had found many elephants in the eastern state of West Bengal blinded by bullets from farmers' crude homemade guns.

These maimed animals often leave their herds and add to the number of marauding, lone elephants known as "rogues" which roam the countryside doing great damage to crops and killing over 50 people a year in India.

More advanced animals are forced by poachers to kill elephants for their tusks. Officials say that in the southern state of Kerala, organised gangs of poachers have almost wiped out large sized "tuskers".

The elephant figures in Hindu mythology as a noble beast and is revered by Hindus because of Ganesha, the god with an elephant's head who brings good

fortune and success.

In the past elephants were used in India by maharajas and nobles for hunting tigers and other wild animals. Killing of Indian elephants is prohibited by law except when special permission is given to shoot a rogue.

The elite among the elephants are those kept in Hindu temples, especially in South India.

These animals are adorned with jewellery and costly robes and taken out in procession on important festival days.

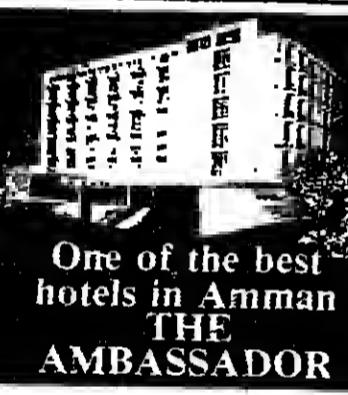
One South Indian state declared official mourning on the day its oldest and most famous temple elephant died. The local government flew in medicines from West Germany in an unsuccessful bid to save another elephant.

The symbol of the Asian games held in Delhi last year was a baby elephant called Appu.

One ray of hope for the Indian elephant is the successful breeding of domesticated elephants in forestry departments in some states for use in moving timber.

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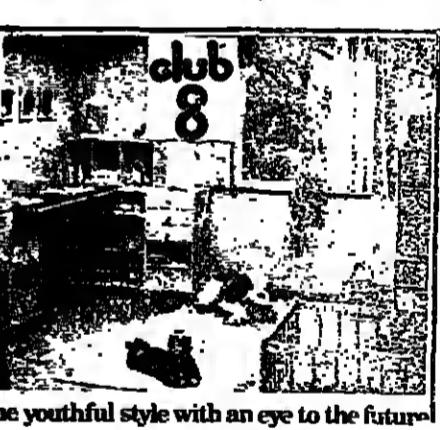
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Balancing the food equation

IT IS a bizarre sight to watch the world's richest agricultural nations trying to dispose of their embarrassing wealth of produce — indeed, falling over each other in the rush to give it away. It is both comic and tragic that the United States and Europe are desperate to give free apples and cut-price butter to countries they are simultaneously threatening with nuclear destruction, or feeding milk powder to pigs while half the world's children are malnourished.

This absurd situation has arisen because political considerations have been allowed to regulate food production, and government intervention has grossly distorted the real picture of supply and demand. Farmers, initially buoyed up by subsidies, are now under pressure to cut back their production and many are going out of business.

There are clear lessons here for developing countries which are relative newcomers on the food production scene, especially if they are making concerted efforts to turn their agriculture into a major foreign exchange earning sector.

Gluts are not a prerogative of the Western

food producers. In developing countries, a young and thriving agricultural sector trying to produce a surplus for export is very likely to experience gluts, especially in the early days when production and marketing are not yet fully co-ordinated.

It is very tempting for a government, anxious to shield farmers from being left with unsaleable produce on their hands, to step in and buy up the surplus, for re-sale or processing. This is initially welcomed by farmers, of course. But in the long run it helps neither the farmer nor the country. It cushions agriculture from market realities and can lead to chronic overproduction or misdirected production. Repeated buying-up of surpluses for processing can mean losing sight of well-conceived plans to produce top quality produce for export — and can lead to new surpluses of the processed commodity.

Getting the production-demand equation right may involve a process of trial and error, but developing countries at least have the chance to avoid the Western food producers' mountainous mistakes.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Washington responsible for Israeli intransigence

We really do wonder what the American Administration will do now that Israel has once again openly defied it. Washington must surely know that such action ruins both its credibility and its ability to exercise an effective role necessary to establish a just and comprehensive peace in our region. This is a question that the American administration will have to resolve very soon because Israel has placed it in a very embarrassing situation.

After U.S. envoy Philip Habib's failure to dissuade Israel from demanding early warning stations in southern Lebanon, it has become clear that the Israeli stand on the issue was only a decoy to divert America's attention from the real question of Israeli troop-withdrawal from Lebanon, and Habib's demand that a partial withdrawal be carried out before the middle of next month.

It is not a secret that the American administration hoped to boost its sagging credibility in the region by bringing about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. But the Israelis seem to have dealt a crushing blow to that credibility and placed

At Dustour: Deadlock threatens

U.S. interests and credibility

Latest reports from Beirut and Tel Aviv indicate that the American-Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are back to square one. After four weeks of meetings, it seems that differences have widened to such a degree that Tuesday's session completely collapsed due to disagreement over the agenda.

In simple terms this means that U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission has failed to achieve any progress, and that his sudden return to Washington for consultations with President Reagan is a last desperate attempt by the American administration to honour its commitment both to achieving an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and securing the latter's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

By its insistence on imposing conditions of withdrawal on Lebanon, Israel must clearly be regarded as the party responsible for the failure of the current negotiations. This intolerable situation necessitates swift American action, and a firm stand that would both restore Washington's credibility and its

the American administration in an embarrassing position for all the world to see. Needless to say, America's policy makers now face a tough test which will not be helped by the time scale, a factor Israel has proved itself to be skilful at manipulating in the past.

It is no exaggeration to say that Washington's failure to attain this limited objective would put the American administration in a state of total impotence in relation to the region, and would no doubt demean all the previous peace efforts launched by Washington.

We should, however, not forget that America's unlimited economic, military and financial support for Israel; coupled with its actions at U.N. Security Council meetings which have rescued the Zionists from sanctions, have encouraged Israel to adopt such arrogant and defiant postures. Therefore, it is the American administration that should bear the responsibility for this latest deadlock in Lebanon, and face the Israeli defiance alone.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)

It should be clear in Washington that Israel, which has been putting forward impossible demands, is aiming to expand its political, economic and even military spheres of influence in Lebanon. Indeed, this reality reveals Israel's true intention namely that of perpetuating its stay in the territory of its northern neighbour.

Habib's failure, and the deadlocked negotiations, means that the United States faces a tough test. It has to force Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, and bring about a speedy solution to the Lebanese crisis. Failure in this department would lead to a loss of confidence in the United States as a superpower capable of shouldering responsibility for the establishment of peace in the region.

America's failure would also mean that its own political and economic interests in this part of the world would be put in severe jeopardy.

Prince Abdullah shuttle diplomacy fails

Still no reconciliation between Iraq and Syria

By Khader Nassar

Reuter

JORDAN — A new round of shuttle diplomacy by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz as apparently failed to bring about a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq.

Long-standing strains between the two neighbours, ruled by rival factions of the Baath Socialist Party, have worsened recently as Syria backs non-Arab Iran in its war with Iraq.

Last year Damascus shut off the pipeline carrying Iraqi oil across its territory to Mediterranean ports, causing a heavy drain on Iraq's war-depleted treasury. In what was widely seen as a conciliation attempt, Prince Abdullah last week shuttled between Baghdad and Damascus.

Such a meeting has been a goal of the Saudis since the last Arab summit in Morocco last September, but has not taken place.

Reports in the local press speculated that Prince Abdullah's aim may have been to try to persuade Syria to reopen the oil pipeline.

This would relieve Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, which have funnelled billions of dollars to Iraq during the 28-month-old Gulf war, of the burden of making further payments.

Necessary prelude

The Saudi peace efforts were also widely seen as a necessary prelude to attempts to end the

RED & BLACK

Revive the ILCF

By Jawad Ahmad

about it like some European countries, or they will resort to less palatable excuses. In either case the outcome is the same: Misery and direct threat to world peace and stability.

A respectable institution like the International Labour Organisation (ILO) can not sit idly and watch these catastrophes without responding quickly to help remedy the situation. They have, at the ILO, certain means at their disposal. Notable among these is the revival of the idea of the International Labour Complementary Facility (ILCF).

The ILCF was proposed in 1977 to the ILO 63rd meeting by Crown Prince Hassan.

According to Prince Hassan's speech, the ILCF is a fund which derives its financial resources from labour-importing countries in order to

be used in improving the labour-absorbing capacities of labour-exporting countries.

The proposal was warmly received by international agencies and labour-exporting countries. It received wide attention in academic circles and among researchers. Yet the lukewarm reaction of rich labour-importing countries made the ILCF's chances of implementation rather small.

It seems like Jewish residents in the USSR and Cosmos 1402 receive much greater attention than the Arab deportees from the West Bank or the millions of labourers kicked out from their countries of work.

If millions can be spent on propaganda, let matching millions be spent to alleviate human suffering.

The most important undertaking of our generation

Maybe a crucial year for disarmament

By Sidney Welland

Reuter

LONDON — Five separate sets of negotiations resume in the next two weeks, all aimed at reducing the risk of nuclear or conventional war between East and West.

In a year that could be crucial for disarmament, they represent the most concentrated effort to check the growth of armaments since the end of World War II 38 years ago. U.S. and Soviet negotiators meet today in Geneva facing a clear deadline: If they fail to agree on limiting medium-range nuclear weapons, new American missiles are set for deployment in Western Europe by the end of 1983.

In Vienna on the same day, NATO and the Warsaw pact reopen deadlocked discussions of conventional forces. The 40-nation Disarmament Committee convenes on Feb. 1, and a new round of U.S.-Soviet talks on strategic arms begins on Feb. 2.

Officials from 35 governments will meet in Madrid on Feb. 8 to continue a marathon European Security Conference, searching for a formula to guard against surprise attack. Although separate, the negotiations are interconnected. President Reagan has called the highly intensive arms control effort the "most important undertaking of our generation." The following is a breakdown of the issues and weapons involved and the proposals tabled so far:

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)

U.S.-Soviet negotiations on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe started in Geneva in Nov. 1981 and resume after a two-month break. Regarded as most urgent in the cycle.

American proposal: Total ban on land-based deployments.

Known as zero option, U.S. is ready to drop plans to base 572 Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe if Soviet Union dismantles about 600 missiles.

Mobile triple-warhead SS-20

causes its most cities in Western Europe. Cruises and Pershings are capable of striking at Kremlin and other key command centres in Soviet Union.

Soviet proposal: Moscow will reduce European-based SS-20s from about 240 to 162, to match British and French missiles, provided U.S. deployments are cancelled. Deep cuts for older SS-4s and SS-5s, other SS-20s to be moved to Soviet Siberia. Soviet and NATO nuclear-capable aircraft to be equalised. Zero option has been rejected by Moscow, and West refuses trade-off against British and French weapons.

Pressure is mounting within NATO alliance for halfway solution that would allow both sides to keep some missiles if zero option is unattainable. U.S. says negotiator Paul Nitze is authorised "to explore any flexibility in Soviet position."

Under 1979 NATO "double-track" decision, U.S. missiles to be deployed in West Germany (108 Pershings, 96 Cruises), Britain (160 Cruises), Italy (112 Cruises), Belgium and Netherlands (48 Cruises each) if negotiating track unsuccessful.

Forces and Armaments in Central Europe

Inter-alliance negotiations now in 10th year in Vienna between 12 NATO and seven Warsaw pact nations, with no result so far. Object is to trim conventional forces and armaments in main "confrontation" area in central Europe.

Talks are called "MBFR" by the West, for mutual and balanced force reductions, a name rejected

by Communist bloc on grounds that stress on balance implies existing Communist superiority.

Western proposal: Four-stage reductions over seven years to bring manpower levels on each side down to 700,000 ground troops and 200,000 airmen, backed by strict verification.

Based on Western figures, this would call for bloc-wide cuts of about 260,000 men by Warsaw pact, about 90,000 by NATO, starting with first-step reductions by U.S. and Soviet forces.

Soviet proposal: First-stage reductions involving 20,000 Soviet and 13,000 American troops, leading eventually to ceiling for each alliance of 900,000 soldiers and airmen. Talks deadlocked for seven years in dispute over figures. Warsaw pact's own head count of ground troops is understated by about 160,000 men.

40-nation Committee on Disarmament (CD)

Autonomous body in Geneva linked to United Nations, includes all five nuclear weapons states (U.S., Britain, China, France, Soviet Union), established in present form in 1978.

This committee is considering ban on chemical and radiological weapons and how to monitor eventual total ban on testing nuclear arms. Warsaw pact has called for negotiations to be speeded up.

U.S. is investigating allegations that Soviet-made chemical weapons were used in South-East Asia and Afghanistan.

Strategic arms

U.S.-Soviet negotiations on reducing inter-continental ballistic missiles opened in June 1982, also restarting in Geneva after two-month break. They replace earlier SALT talks.

U.S. calls them "START", for

Conference on Security Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)

Meeting of 33 Western, Communist and neutral European states plus U.S. and Canada, deadlocked in Madrid mainly over human rights since 1980. Third in series which started with signing of Helsinki final act, a European code of good conduct, in 1975.

Key issue: How to frame acceptable guidelines for later all-European conference on military confidence-building measures, basically how to guard against surprise attack.

Soviet Union says it is willing to extend military checks up to Russia's Ural mountains, but wants Western pact to include parts of Atlantic. Outcome bound up with human rights in Soviet bloc, with Poland's 1981 military crackdown a major problem.

Stereotypes exist

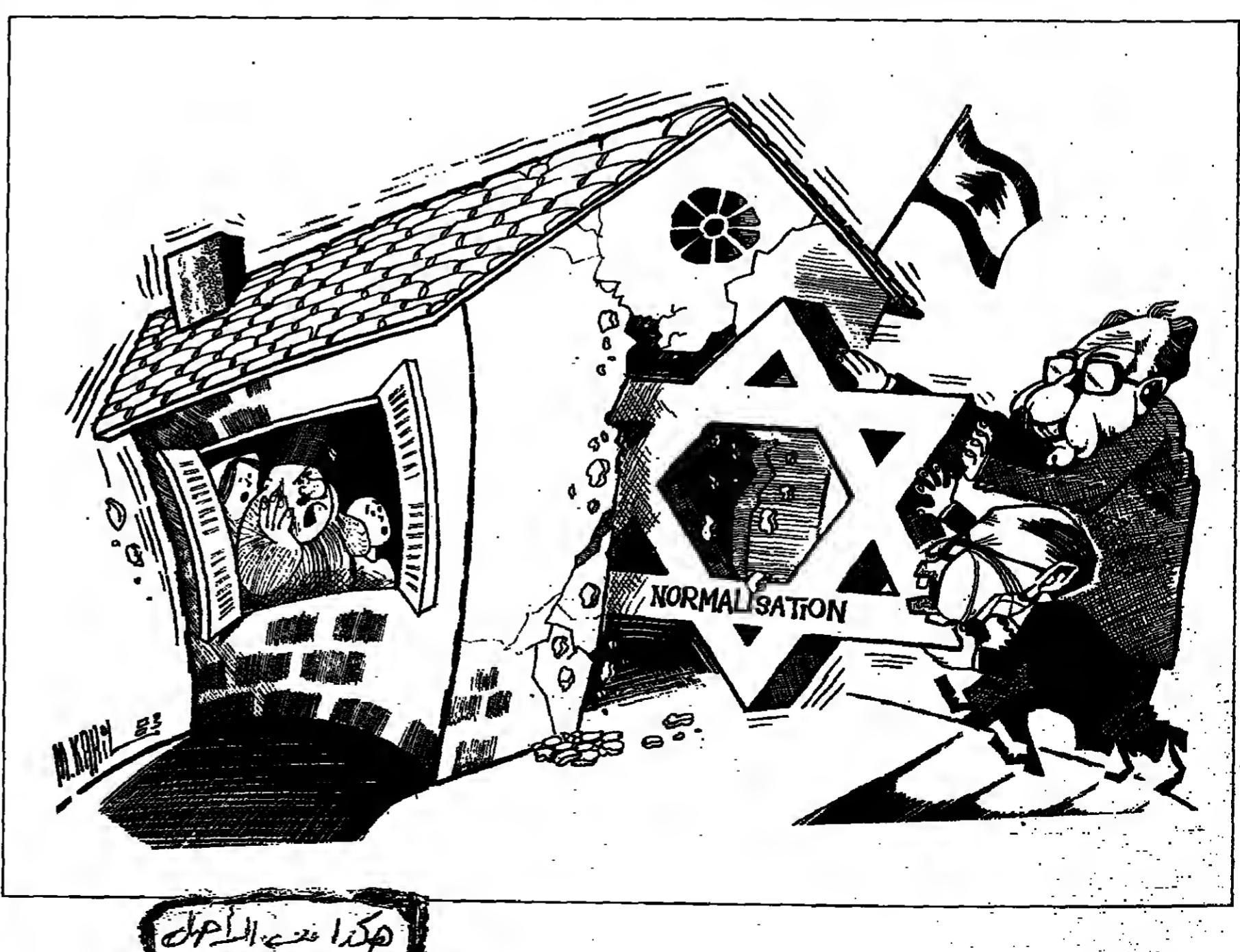
To the Editor:

In answer to Barbara Davis's letter on Salwa El-Taher's article on "The West And Arab Image" (Jordan Times, Jan. 22, 1983).

At the risk of sounding hair-splitting, I would like to draw Mrs. Davis' attention to a logical inaccuracy. For surely to say that stereotype exists about the Arabs in America is not to stereotype the Americans.

Mrs. Davis might have noble feelings towards the Arabs. The fact remains that the majority of Americans are the willing or unwilling victims of Zionist propaganda. Mrs. Taher was not referring to individual cases. As for all men being brothers, a look on modern—or ancient—history would quickly inform Mrs. Davis on the difference between theory and practice, preaching and reality.

Abeer Zalatimo,
P.O. Box 5266,
Amman, Jordan.



Deserts -- when the balance breaks down



Egypt's Prof. Mohamed Kassas (above), President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (IUCN), talks about desertification to John Rowley of People magazine.

The U.N. Conference on desertification five years ago came up with a far better "plan of action" than most U.N. meetings. The causes of desertification were identified and appropriate remedies proposed. Can you summarise for us what has actually been achieved since this conference?

Well, I think there have been some achievements, but not as many as we had hoped for, mainly because governments do not seem to be capable of making desertification control or reclamation of desertified land into national development priorities. Desertification control does not figure largely in applications for international aid.

I think this is related to what we call the economics of land development, because desertification control and reclamation have become a very expensive business. There is keen competition for investment funds, and the low returns on agricultural development in general and desertification control in particular, make them highly uncompetitive. For example, at present Egypt is embarking on large-scale agricultural development, expanding their agricultural land into the desert. I would estimate that the reclamation costs will be around

£3,000 to £4,000 per acre. Now £4,000 invited at 12 percent interest yields nearly £500, but nobody would expect that an owner of one acre of land would be able to make this sum of money in a year. So governments need to provide incentives and heavy subsidies for the process and this is where international aid can help.

Can you say something about the human element in this continuing problem of the dry lands and spread of deserts? Has the situation got worse in human terms in recent years?

Desertification arises through a breakdown in the "relationship between man and land. There is a balance that needs to be maintained, and any upset on the negative side or the positive side leads to an upset of the system. Let me give two contrasting examples. In the Sudan desertification is very evident in what we call the gum arabic belt. This is the area between the rainfall lines of 250 mm and 450-500 mm, which is the area of production of gum arabic, the second most important export crop in Sudan. Sudan accounts for more than 80 percent of the world's production of gum arabic, so this is a very important thing. In this area gum arabic is produced by a system of cyclical shifting cultivation,

which is ecologically sound and has existed for millennia.

But over the last 50 years, it has been upset because of population pressure. There are too many people; too much demand. So the fallow years are becoming shorter, and the cultivation period longer. The system breaks down and the land loses its fertility and desertification results. Now here is an example of heavy population pressure overtaxing the resource system.

In Yemen, on the other hand, cultivation is dependent on very intensive terracing of the highlands of Yemen, which needs continuous labour-intensive maintenance. This system of cultivation has been maintained in Yemen for thousands of years, but at present, Yemeni labourers are finding it much more attractive to go and work in the oil-rich countries of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, and hence there is a thinning of the population, shortage of labour, the terraces are neglected, desertification comes in. So this is an example in which the reduction of the population is causing the deterioration of the system because of the lack of labour necessary for work. These two contrasting examples show that we need to maintain a certain balance between population and resource development in these fragile systems of the arid lands.

Another factor would you chance your arm and say that the problem is fundamentally one of too many people?

In most instances, it would be too many people requiring too many things. In particular it is too many people requiring too much wood, leading to excessive wood-cutting and the degeneration of the woodland. If you go to any of the villages in the Sahel you will see circles of intensive wood-cutting and degradation and desertification around them, because people have depleted all the woods nearby and have to go further and further. There is need for more food, so you want to cultivate more. By cultivating more you push your agriculture into areas that are very fragile and should not be cultivated, and kept as grass rangelands. This means that you are reducing the land available for livestock, and so increasing the intensity of grazing, causing further desertification.

There are people who say the real cause of the Sahel famine was the interference with natural systems of migration; that the development of new water holes interfered with natural population distribution patterns, and led to

overgrazing which really caused the problem.

I think there is only a grain of truth in this, because in the Sudan it was not local degradation -- it was much broader. Desertification there was initiated in years of high rainfall, when people expanded agriculture into areas they should not cultivate, and when the drought came these areas had no natural plant cover. It was already ploughed and read for wheat to grow.

Another factor in this area is the population increase that takes place when nomadic people begin to settle. Let us look at what has happened in the Northern states of Nigeria since the beginning of this century. There are two ethnic groups, the sedentary Hausa and the migratory Fulani, who carried out continuous tribal wars among themselves, as would happen between any sedentary group and any nomadic group. Then as the wars finished, people began to settle, and when people began to settle, population started to increase, there are greater demands, greater impacts, and the system begins to break down.

Another factor -- a positive one is the development of improved veterinary sciences and services and improved livestock breeds, which has led to an increase in the livestock population. In this area of Northern Nigeria between 1925 and 1965 the animal stock increased from 4 million to 10 million head, and at the same time the area available to grazing was becoming smaller because of the expansion of agriculture. Simi-

larly, improved health services to the people are responsible for increases in human population.

If one of the major causes is the steady increase of population and we all know that some of these areas, such as Kenya, have very rapid population growth, what is the solution? FAO studies on carrying capacity show that even with high inputs in some of these dry areas, it is unlikely that the carrying capacity can increase fast enough to support the population.

The solution in all this is a combination of population planning, surely, and the integrated development of resources. If you want to develop your livestock resources, you must have a certain area with some irrigated pasture, using whatever water is available in little rivers for underground water resources. Then you have your livestock within the natural ranches, kept there within the carrying capacity of the system: in the appropriate number, for the appropriate length of time, and in the right type of season.

Then for the rest of the year you move all your livestock with the people into a sedentary settled area of irrigated agriculture, with irrigated pasture. This is exactly what is happening now in Australia and the United States. In any big ranch in Australia there is one bit of irrigated pasture near a river and an area which is a ranch. In the States, they replace the irrigated pasture with the feed lots. You keep your animals in the natural ranches for only a season. You need to release the pressure by some additional means

and this is the integration between feed lot/ranch in the States, or irrigated/natural pasture in Australia.

Now this system needs to be incorporated into national integrated development, and in many instances in Africa, for instance, this cannot be done within the political boundary of nations. There is a need to make the livestock industry transnational, and to use all the water that is available within the whole region.

In this way you can increase carrying capacity and feed the people. So I think the answer is a combination between integrated development of resources on a large scale, including transboundary and transnational development of natural resources -- and of course control of population. But you cannot control your population without social cultural development, including, in particular, in my thinking, the emancipation of women -- emancipation of women meaning continuous participation of women in the system of production, because as I see it, imported technologies in agriculture are tending to push women out of the system of production.

And when it comes to population planning, each nation should see to it that within its plans there is a target population. There must be a ceiling for every population which is worked towards. You can't let population increase indefinitely without relating it to the resource base and to development plans. That is irresponsible.

Randa Habib's CORNER

Nocturnal hazards

Once again I'm unfortunately compelled to talk about the works carried out on the roads. It looks as though I can never talk enough about this subject. Streets constantly looking like a building site do not surprise us anymore. In fact we know all the holes by heart and try to avoid them.

The problem is however when you take a road for the first time... at night. Then, you are in for some surprises. In theory, one should be able to drive without mishap, in almost complete darkness. This is not easy, however, because you only realize there is a hole once you are in it.

For people who enjoy nocturnal drives and who like to discover their city, their innocent hobby can have disastrous consequences on their car and on their person too.

If you have enough courage, drive one day or better still one night) on the Naour road or on the road that leads to the new Airport. You will surely see at least one car vertically mounted on a heap of gravel. I have personally seen two overturned cars simultaneously on each side of the road. The scene had something funny and fearful at the same time.

The reason is simple -- the driver had not "guessed" that works were being carried out.

Would it be asking too much if we just thought of putting up signs to indicate to the drivers the existence of those road works...? Just a light or a luminous sign would help avoid so many accidents.

Citizens' safety must come first

By Hashem Khreisat

Al Rai's Columnist

The setting-up of a "Jordan food department" under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and other concerned government institutions is an important step to be looked forward to. The Jordanian citizen needs to be protected by scrupulous observation of food-stuff. The absence of this has resulted in real health problems through public consumption of out-of-date foods or food originally produced for non-human consumption.

Among the main reasons for this nation-wide problem is the multiplicity of government departments responsible for food safety. When an offence presents itself, each of these sides tries to blame the others. Use of uneaten food has occurred so frequently that something should be done to put an end to the problem.

The re-assessment of obligatory standard specifications for local and imported

food products, an aspect dealt with at present theoretically, particularly for canned foods and flour, is an encouraging step on the path to setting-up the necessary department. The new department, along with the Directorate of Standards and Measurements at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce should see to it that the re-assessed specifications are actually adhered to by vendors.

We hope the proposed "Jordan food department" will not take long, through endless planning and consideration, to come to life especially as there are many concerned parties who might like to take part in its creation. What is really more important is the citizen's safety and the guaranteeing of edible food-stuff, without having to live in fear of getting it wrong as a result of the absence of an authorised and responsible official body.



Overtaking of gum arabic trees in Sudan has meant more desert encroachment

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

04:30 ... Koran
04:50 ... Cartoon
05:10 ... The March Bunch
05:30 ... News Summary
05:50 ... Billie Marple
07:00 ... Local Programme
08:00 ... News in Arabic
08:30 ... Arabic Series
09:30 ... Arabic Play
11:00 ... News in Arabic

06:00 ... French Programme (feature film)
06:30 ... The Farming World 09:00 World News
07:00 ... 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Country Style
07:30 ... 24 Hours: News 10:00 Reflections
10:15 ... Short Story 10:30 John Paul II 11:00 World News; 11:30 British Press Review
11:35 ... The World Today 11:30 Look Ahead
12:15 ... Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead
11:45 ... Talking About Music 12:15 Two Chefs for 1982 12:30 French Muir Goes into... 12:30 World News; News about 12:30 The Week in Wales 12:30 The Week and The Course 14:00 Radio Newsround 14:45 Sports Round-up 14:45 Jubilee Concert 15:00 World News; 15:30 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 The Pleasure's Young 16:30 Outlook 17:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 Outlook 18:30 Radio Newsround 19:15 Outlook 19:30 The Week in Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:00 News about Britain 20:15 Radio Newsround 20:30 Thirty Minutes 21:00 Outlook: News 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 News Roundup 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 A Jolly Good Show 22:45 Used Motor Vehicles 23:00 In the Marketplace 23:30 Business Meeting 24:00 World News 06:00 The Week in Wales 06:25 Sports Round-up 06:40 Reflections 06:50 Merit 10:15 The Week in Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:00 News about Britain 20:15 Radio Newsround 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ECONOMY

France calls on EEC to respond to U.S.-Egypt deal

BRUSSELS (R) — France called on the European Community Tuesday to respond to what it called an aggressive American move to sell subsidised flour to Egypt.

Mr. Andre Chardennagor, French minister of European affairs, told journalists he had asked the European Commission to find an appropriate response to the deal, which pushed European and especially French sellers out of the lucrative Egyptian market for a year.

Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp told him the Commission would do as he asked, he said.

The United States announced last week that it was selling Egypt one million tonnes of subsidised flour.

U.S. officials described it as retaliation against the 10-nation Community's food export policies, which the Americans say give unfair subsidies to farmers.

After talks in Washington earlier this month, the Commission's Agriculture Director Claud Villain told Community governments that prospects for avoiding a Transatlantic conflict over agriculture seemed better.

But Mr. Chardennagor, speaking on the second day of a Community foreign ministers meeting, said the Egyptian deal clearly

showed that the atmosphere had not really improved.

He called the American sale aggressive and said the Community now had to pick up the gauntlet.

"Nobody wants a trade war, most of all France, but we cannot let this move go unanswered," he said.

The Reagan administration says the Community's subsidies are used to push American farmers out of their traditional markets, and has lodged a complaint about flour exports in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Community traditionally sells about 700,000 tonnes of flour each year to Egypt, and officials say the American deal closes the market to European traders for the next 12 months.

The U.S. flour deal was particularly unexpected here because Washington had hinted strongly that any retaliation against the Community would involve dairy products.

Meanwhile the European Community agreed Tuesday to open talks with Mediterranean countries whose economies and political situation could be affected when Spain and Portugal join the Common Market, officials said.

U.K. business leaders call for aid to industry

LONDON (R) — Business leaders called Wednesday for aid to industry rather than personal tax cuts in Britain's annual budget on March 15, widely expected to be the last before a general election.

Although an election does not have to be held until May 1984, politicians and commentators are forecasting that it could come any time after this June, and some predict tax cuts aimed at gaining popularity for Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

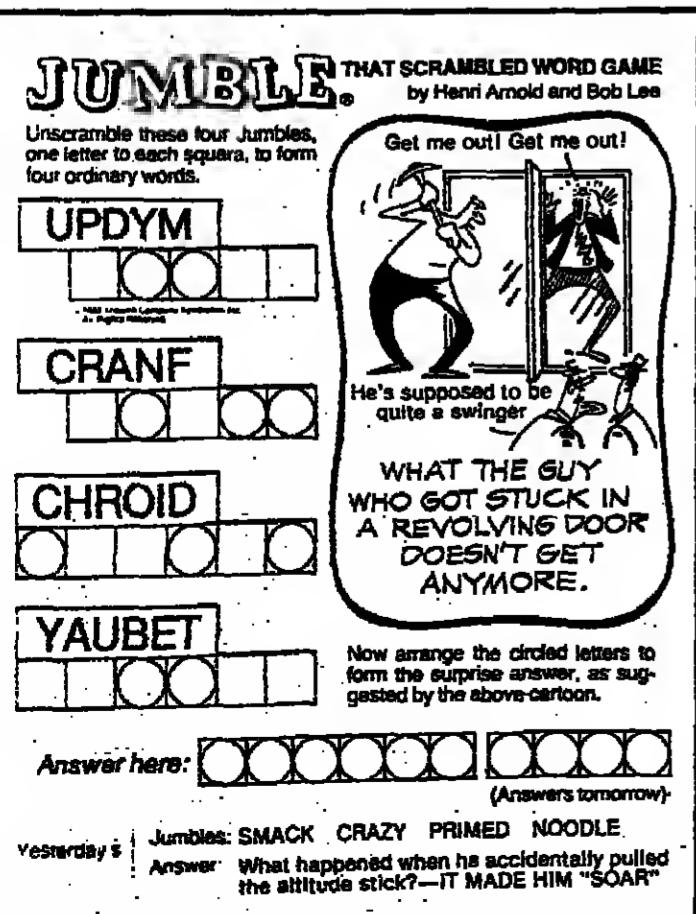
The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) employers' organisation Wednesday suggested a £2.6 billion (\$4 billion) package of measures to make industry more competitive and profitable.

The CBI urged the chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister), Sir Geoffrey Howe, to concentrate budget relief on business rather than individuals as the best way to boost output, jobs and industry.

Egypt orders foreign firms to recruit local manpower

CAIRO (R) — Foreign companies operating in Egypt were instructed to limit employment of expatriates to only 10 per cent of the total working force, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Wednesday.

Egyptian minister of manpower Mr. Saad Mohamad Ahmad was quoted by MENA as saying that a new set of regulations were issued which stipulate that: "Foreign experts at any organisation should not exceed 10 per cent of the total number of its working force giving Egyptians first priority."



LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities turned mixed after early gains in quiet trading as sterling continued steady and uncertainty remained following the inconclusive OPEC meeting, dealers said.

In oils B.P. and Shell were unchanged on balance at 318 and 410 respectively after early rises. Among leading industrials Plessey was unchanged at 564 after 574 and Distillers was up 3p at 252. The F.T. index at 1500 Wednesday was up 0.7 at 614.9.

Blitz Circle fell 3p to 420 and Aertethaw shed 60p at 540 on fears that the agreed merger might be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Gold and North American shares were higher.

Government bonds were quietly firmer, though off the highs, on the back of sterling's strength against the dollar with gains extending to 4% point in longer dated issues, dealers said.

Associated Diaries was up 10p at 158 after interim figures at the top end of market expectations while Mercantile House Holdings firmed 35p at 735 after Tuesday's interim. Breweries were firm with Guinness up 5p at 116 after Tuesday's annuals.

In former banks Natwest was up 10p at 510 while Lloyds and Midland were up 8p at 418 and 323 respectively. Life insurances were weak with losses of 2p common.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

	One sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars
	1.5457/67	1.2340/43	Canadian dollars
	2.4160/70	2.6535/45	West German marks
	47.27/32	1.9835/50	Dutch guilders
	6.8460/8510	47.27/32	Swiss francs
	1387.50/1388.50	6.8460/8510	Belgian francs
	234.65/80	1387.50/1388.50	French francs
	7.3810/60	234.65/80	Italian lire
	7.1250/1300	7.3810/60	Japanese yen
	8.4680/4780	7.1250/1300	Swedish crowns
One ounce of gold	488.25/489.25	8.4680/4780	Norwegian crowns
			Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

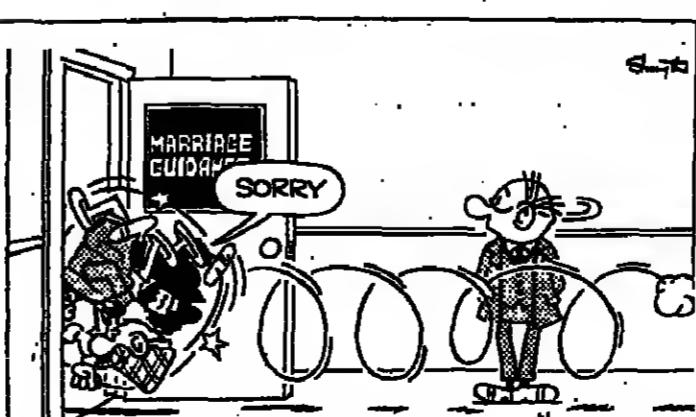
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



MARRIAGE
GUIDANCE

SORRY

SPUD

SPUD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait may cut oil prices

BAHRAIN (R) — Kuwait Wednesday hinted it might cut its oil price unless other members of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) stopped giving discounts. OPEC faces a growing crisis after oil ministers failed to agree on sharing the glutted market at weekend talks in Geneva. Indonesia's Finance Minister Ali Wardhana and Oil Minister Subroto were in Jeddah Wednesday after talks in Riyadh Tuesday with Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani.

Dollar falls on currency markets

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell on world currency markets Tuesday, including a drop of nearly six yen in Tokyo, on expectations of further declines in U.S. interest rates, dealers said. They said President Reagan's call Tuesday night for lower interest rates and his announcement of measures to cut U.S. budget deficits would put further pressure on the central bank to liberalise its money policy. Sterling rose in London against all major currencies after its recent sharp losses. The Bank of England's trade-weighted index, based on a basket of currencies of Britain's major trading partners with a 1975 base of 100, opened at 81.2 after closing Tuesday at 80.1.

Ethiopia allows joint ventures

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's left-wing military government has issued a proclamation allowing the formation of joint ventures backed by 51 per cent of Ethiopian public capital and 49 per cent of foreign private or public capital. The proclamation, coming eight years after the nationalisation of most privately-owned Ethiopian firms, was intended to develop the national economy, generate foreign exchange and create jobs, officials said. Under the proclamation, joint ventures on new projects would be exempt from income tax for five years. Thereafter, they would be subject to 40 per cent tax on their taxable income.

Philippines tightens wage transfers

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos, in a move to ease the country's balance of payments deficit, has instituted penalties against Filipino overseas workers who fail to remit part of their salaries to local banks, labour ministry officials said Wednesday. They said the penalties, contained in an order strengthening rules on mandatory remittance of overseas wages, are repatriation of a worker at his own expense and non-renewal of passports and employment contracts. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, nurses and other professionals must now send home 70 per cent of their monthly pay, up from the previous 50 per cent. Other contract workers follow the old rule—70 per cent for seaman and construction workers and 50 per cent for domestics and others.

Japan hopes to ease import policy

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Tuesday his government hoped to put forward a bill aimed at further easing the country's non-tariff barriers to imports. Mr. Nakasone said he had ordered a task force led by chief cabinet secretary Mr. Masaharu Gotoda to present a report by the end of March on further measures to simplify import procedures and to ease Japan's safety and operating standards.

Brazil cuts pay rises

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil has cut its six-monthly inflation-linked pay rises to workers in the last of major economic changes agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a planning ministry spokesman said. The changes enable Brazil to apply for a \$4.9 billion emergency IMF loan. Rises for the lowest paid, earning up to three times the official minimum wage, would now merely keep pace with increases in the consumer price index, the spokesman said. Workers in higher pay brackets will receive rises below the rise in the consumer price index.

France moves to help 'new poor'

PARIS (R) — The French government, faced with a growing army of destitute, homeless and hungry people in Paris and other large cities, Wednesday announced a list of measures aimed at fighting a new breed of poverty.

At its weekly cabinet meeting, the government drafted a plan for aiding the groups least able to cash in on social benefit—single mothers, the long-term unemployed, the insufficiently educated.

The poverty problem has grown dramatically in France in recent years, largely due to worsening unemployment which now stands at two million.

Half a million people are officially listed as living in unsanitary dwellings, requests for aid from charities have more than

doubled in the past three years, and the salvation army recently received distribution of soup in the streets of Paris.

On Monday, eight French charity organisations sent delegates to the Elysee Palace to confer with President Francois Mitterrand on how best to help the increasing number of aid seekers who have become known here as "the new poor".

According to the aid groups, the profile of people being assisted has changed to include a new community of unfortunate, strikingly different from France's traditional beggars and tramps.

The new poor, the aid groups say, suddenly find themselves in inextricable situations due to temporary handicaps such as the loss of a job, illness, the break-up of a family.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to observe the progress you have made in the past and to draw up new plans for greater progress in the future. Strive for success and happiness.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Go to the right sources for information you need. Take time to visit with friends and relieve tensions you are under.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may find it difficult to handle monetary affairs early in the day but later they work out fine for you. Be wise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Radical changes may be required to gain your most cherished aims at this time. Be sure to improve your appearance.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make a deep study of what is really important in your life and then go after your aims in a positive manner.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Friends cannot be of much help to you during the day, but can be relied upon in the evening. Much pleasure in yours tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Follow every rule and regulation that applies to you today and gain the respect of others. Be poised at all times.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Situations may not work out as fast as you would like at this time, but don't force matters, or you could get into trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Compose yourself so that sudden-attacks today will not get the best of you. The evening can be a most happy one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to please others as much as possible today and avoid unpleasantness. Take time to meditate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be careful in the handling of important work at this time. Taking risks could bring trouble at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation that you know is not right for you. Be poised at all times today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher-ups. Come to a fine accord with associates.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can easily get along well with others, so be sure to give the best education you can afford and future success is assured. Give ethical training early in life. Sports are a must in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 28, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to consider the problems and perplexities that face you, and to plan a better way to operate in the days ahead. Take positive steps to gain your most cherished aims.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your financial status and make plans to have more security in the future. Find a better way to be more productive at work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to have more abundance in this future but make sure your plans are practical. Relax at home tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't do anything at this time that could jeopardize your fine reputation. Sidestep one who is detrimental to your progress.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are tempted to be too extravagant now, so take right steps to control this. Clear up whatever is in error.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Contact a most successful person who can give you good ideas. Avoid the social today and concentrate on business affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Forget ideas of expansion right now and take care of problems at hand. Take pains to handle routine tasks in an effective manner.

WORLD

Flying telescope launched successfully by NASA

VANDENBERG AIR BASE, California (R) — A three-nation infrared "flying telescope" was launched into orbit 900 kilometres above the earth Tuesday night to scan secrets of the universe never before seen by man.

The telescope will probe the last frontier of astronomy—seek out unknown stars, survey the milky way galaxy, which includes earth, and possibly reveal objects

Iran executes 22 guerrillas

LONDON (R) — Twenty-two leftist guerrillas were executed in the Caspian Sea resort of Amol Tuesday night for armed rebellion against Iran's clerical leadership. Tehran Radio said.

They were members of the Union of Iranian Communists who took over parts of the town last year in several days of violent clashes with revolutionary guards. The guerrillas went before a firing squad in the presence of relatives of guardsmen killed in the clashes.

Court rebuffs British Labour

LONDON (R) — In a court case which could affect the timing and decide the outcome of Britain's next general election, the opposition Labour Party has lost an appeal against revision of the country's electoral boundaries.

Opposition leader Michael Foot and three frontbench parliamentary colleagues have been battling through the courts to forestall the redrawing of the country's political map. Their suit was rejected by a lower court in December, and the court of appeal upheld that verdict Tuesday. They have one week to

Greeks unite to reform old-fashioned family law

ATHENS (R) — Greece's parliament, in a rare show of unity, has unanimously approved a sweeping reform of this country's old-fashioned family law, making divorce much easier, guaranteeing sexual equality in marriage, and ending discrimination against illegitimate children.

The new law won broad approval from the ruling Socialists, Moscow-line Communists and opposition conservatives alike at a session which ended Tuesday. It also abolishes the dowry, a centuries-old tradition, as a compulsory legal requirement in marriage.

For the first time in Greece's modern history, couples will be able to get divorced by consent. Under the old system, there were strictly defined grounds, including bigamy, adultery and responsible for a marriage's breakdown.

Lawyers were among the few categories of people who could sue for divorce citing their own responsibility.

Husbands and wives who had agreed on divorce often went through elaborate charades where each proved the other guilty for the breakdown of their marriage.

"The whole process was very undignified, and we wanted to put a stop to this," said Prof. Alice Marangoupolou, a leading woman academic who advised the government in the drafting of the new law.

Divorce can now be obtained almost automatically for "dead marriages" where husband and wife have lived apart for four years.

Lawyers said they doubted

not even known to be in space," a spokesman for the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

The telescope, a \$180 million British-U.S.-Dutch project named IRAS (Infrared Astronomical Satellite) was fired into space aboard a U.S. delta rocket as dusk fell at Vandenberg air base.

The three metre-long telescope, taking up almost all the room of the four-metre-long space craft, soared straight up into the clouds, a glaring white flame from the base of the rocket leaving behind a black trail.

One hour and 20 minutes after liftoff, the rocket passed over the Rutherford and Appleton Laboratory at Chilton, 32 kilometres south of Oxford, England, to receive its first command from earth during its seven-month mission.

"Everything went according to the book. It was really thrilling," the manager of the Dutch part of the project, Dr. Jan de Koomen, said. "For seven years we had

taught the satellite what to do, and it did it."

Dr. Barry Martin of the British project team said: "Everything worked perfectly. We were delighted."

A protective hood over the silver and gold telescope is due to be ejected on Sunday and, after another week of checks, the instrument will begin its survey of the heavens.

"The telescope is the first of its kind to work above the earth's atmosphere and it will detect infrared, or heat radiation, clues from space objects hidden from earth by clouds of dust and gas which ordinary telescopes could not penetrate," the NASA spokesman said.

Britain is responsible for tracking the satellite and providing other support, the Netherlands for the manufacture and testing of the spacecraft and the U.S. managed the development of the telescope.

In addition, 27 astronomers from the three countries will assess the materials sent back to earth by the craft.

Political commentators estimate that Labour would lose about 30 additional seats on the new boundaries, drawn up by an independent commission.

Although opinion polls indicate that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government could win an election held now on the old boundaries, politicians say it is almost unthinkable that she would go to the country before Labour's court case is concluded.

At the frontier was like a refugee camp with hundreds of men, women and children arriving in buses overloaded with passengers and goods.

Benin opened the crossing at Seme, 80 kilometres west of Lagos, last Sunday evening after thousands had set up camp on the Nigerian side.

At least one million Ghanaians deemed to be illegal aliens have been given until next weekend to leave Nigeria.

Along with expelled illegal aliens from 14 other members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) they face a difficult land journey home.

China closed its land borders with neighbouring Togo, Ivory Coast and Upper Volta last September, saying the action was necessary to stop drug trafficking.

Benin had said no Ghanaians would be allowed to cross until Ghana reopened its own borders, but later appeared to relent.

Once inside Benin the Ghanaians faced protracted haggling with bus owners charging four times the normal fare to make the 200 kilometre trip to the Togo border.

Benin officials said Togo would refuse to let them in until Ghana reopened its frontiers.

While those with money joined a huge haggling throng in a car park near the border, others slept by the roadside, some saying they hoped some government would send trucks to take them on their way.

Diplomats in Nigeria said there was serious concern for their safety and robberies and attacks had been reported.

A family of six told Reuters they had been waiting at the border for five days and were running out of the food and money.

Youths from the Nigerian city of Benin, southeast of Lagos, were wearing red ribbons, to signify they felt in danger.

One man and his seven cousins who had worked at a steel plant at Ajakouta, north of Lagos, said they were attacked in the night by men with knives who took their money. But there were few other eyewitness accounts of violence.

According to some local observers the Ghanaians have been expelled to create more jobs for Nigerians in the runup to national and presidential elections.

Bolivia's arrest of Altmann starts speculation about trial

LONDON (R) — The arrest in Bolivia of convicted Nazi war criminal Klaus Altmann in connection with an unpaid debt has touched off speculation of yet another attempt to bring the so-called "butcher of Lyons" to justice in Europe.

Altmann, 69, alias Klaus Barbie, fled Europe after World War II and became a Bolivian citizen in 1951.

As Nazi Gestapo chief in Lyons, France, from 1942 to 1944, he was accused of murdering hundreds of French resistance fighters.

According to French press reports, Altmann saved himself at the end of World War II by surrendering to advancing American troops and receiving their protection in return for information, including names of his associates and informers.

Numerous Gestapo members were tried in their absence by French courts after the war, including Altmann, who was sentenced to death.

In 1975, Altmann won a case in the Bolivian supreme court against a French request for his extradition which had begun three years earlier with a personal letter from then French President Georges Pompidou to his Bolivian counterpart of the time, Hugo Banzer.

In a letter to a Bolivian newspaper after the hearing, he thanked his lawyers for defending him and praised the supreme court for rejecting the extradition request "against a German citizen who had only complied with his patriotic duties in wartime like any other citizen."

On Jan. 15, Bolivian legal officials said public prosecutor Hernando Acha Siles, claiming an extradition treaty with Germany had been in force since 1889, had made a new application to the supreme court to extradite Altmann.

A file was opened on Altmann, by West German justice officials in 1960 but his trial did not become warm until 1971 when Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld entered the case.

Working with Munich prosecutor Manfred Ludolph, she turned up documents strongly suggesting that Barbie and Altmann were the same person.

Naples' protests against the Camorra

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Some 100,000 small businesses in the Naples area Wednesday began a two-day strike to protest against the protection racketers of the Camorra, the Naples Mafia, which shop owners say is driving them out of business.

Shops, bars, garages and restaurants planned to stay closed Wednesday and Thursday, with only hotels and some dispensing chemists due to stay open.

About 87 per cent of small businesses pay protection money, according to statistics compiled by their local association.

Fearing "accidents" if they report the extortion, the business people have long kept quiet and paid up.

The telescope is the first of its kind to work above the earth's atmosphere and it will detect infrared, or heat radiation, clues from space objects hidden from earth by clouds of dust and gas which ordinary telescopes could not penetrate," the NASA spokesman said.

Britain is responsible for tracking the satellite and providing other support, the Netherlands for the manufacture and testing of the spacecraft and the U.S. managed the development of the telescope.

In addition, 27 astronomers from the three countries will assess the materials sent back to earth by the craft.

Political commentators estimate that Labour would lose about 30 additional seats on the new boundaries, drawn up by an independent commission.

Although opinion polls indicate that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government could win an election held now on the old boundaries, politicians say it is almost unthinkable that she would go to the country before Labour's court case is concluded.

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According to some local observers the Ghanaians have been expelled to create more jobs for Nigerians in the runup to national and presidential elections.

Small business people say they cannot hope to offer jobs or comparable wages while paying huge sums for protection.

The local small traders association recently called in Interior Ministry Virginio Rognoni to discuss their plight, explain their strike and ask for official help.

They asked Mr. Rognoni to allow them to report incidents of extortion to the police without giving their names, in the hope of avoiding reprisals.

The body of a man shot in a mafia-style execution was found Wednesday in the town of Casavatore, near Naples, bringing the death toll in the Naples area underworld to 26 so far this year, police said.

The Camorra, which is likely to face another setback later this year when 150 gangster suspects go on mass trial.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 5,000 Poles want to emigrate

WARSAW (R) — More than 5,000 Poles, including 1,429 people interned during the martial law period, have applied to emigrate since March last year, government spokesman Jerzy Urban told a press conference. But Mr. Urban said out of 4,510 people in whom passports were offered only 1,079, including 300 former internees plus their families, had actually left the country. This was partly because Western states were applying strict conditions on granting visas, he added. Last February the authorities said ex-internees would be allowed to leave the country if they wished. Internment was ended on Dec. 23, a week before martial law was suspended. None of the most prominent figures of the Solidarnosc trade union, whose political challenge prompted the military takeover, has left.

Sandinistas arrest deputy minister

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista authorities have arrested Deputy Justice Minister Alberto Gomez Ortega on suspicion of leaking state secrets and smuggling industrial machinery out of the country, the interior ministry said. Ministry spokesman Eman Rodriguez told a press conference here that Gomez had been under arrest since Dec. 11, when he was stripped of his post. According to the interior ministry, Gomez dismantled a bakery he owned in Managua and smuggled it piecemeal across the porous Rio Costa Rica where he intended to open a new bakery.

U.S. court rebuffs administration

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court, in a major rebuff to the Reagan administration, has refused to review a controversial 1971 ruling on mandatory busing. The court rejected without comment a Justice Department request that it modify the ruling, under which local courts can order the busing of students to distant schools to overcome racial segregation. The administration argued that the practice has often proved ineffective in promoting racial balance, has needlessly disrupted schools and neighbourhoods and has caused many whites to leave the public school system. As an alternative, it has proposed getting black and white students to mingle voluntarily by establishing advanced schools in predominantly black neighbourhoods and schools stressing basic skills in white areas. But civil rights organisations and the government's own commission on civil rights have rejected that plan as a return to the "separate but equal" school segregation enshrined in 1954.

Rotting cheese upsets Swedish police

STROMSUND, Sweden (R) — A tonne of stinking goat cheese is rotting in a Swedish police station, to the discomfort of local officers, while authorities ponder whether it is needed as evidence. Inspector Svante Sundberg said a dairy had alleged that his officer employed to dispose of a 50-tonne consignment of cheese damaged in a fire and of a dead infant for human consumption had sold large amounts instead. He said his officers in this northwest Swedish town could not dump the rotting evidence until local authorities and the district court decided whether charges would be pressed. "The whole of this story stinks. We must have a decision before the rats get here," he told Reuters.

Ex-Bhutto aide wants treatment abroad

KARACHI (R) — A former Pakistani minister said Wednesday he had asked the military government to lift a travel ban on him so that he could receive medical treatment in the United States.

Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, law and parliamentary affairs minister in the government of executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, said he needed coronary bypass

surgery.

His wife's sister in the United States had guaranteed to meet his expenses and he did not need foreign exchange, he said. His passport was seized when the military overthrew the Bhutto government in 1977.

Several leaders of Mr. Bhutto's banned Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) including his widow Nasrat, his widow Nasrat, have recently been allowed to go abroad for medical treatment.

Benzir, who was arrested in

March 1981 and had been detained in various high security prisons, is now under house arrest in Karachi.

Mr. Ballow said Miss Fleming's alleged death threat took place in Marx's bedroom when she was attempting to get him to sign cheques. "It was a constant reminder to her that he wouldn't sign cheques," he said.

The ex-housekeeper also said that Miss Fleming repeatedly asked Marx she would put him into a nursing home.

Mr. Ballow, who worked for

Marx from March 1975 until Jan.

1976, was witness for the Bank of America which was suing Miss Fleming for \$1.6 million.

The bank, administrator of the

Marx estate, alleged that Miss Fleming obtained cash, two homes and other gifts from Marx by exerting excessive influence over him.

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